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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Quarterly Summary
October, November, December [2005]
Volume 22, Numbers 10-12

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER CONDITIONS

By David Walker

Western Nevada

October delivered summer-like weather to western Nevada, warm and dry. The area was dominated by a high-pressure system for the month except for a cold front at the beginning and middle of the month. Precipitation was well below average overall but was also very variable over the region. Imlay received 264% of normal while Reno had 7% of normal! The first snow in the Sierra's occurred on the 26th albeit very light. The Reno airport had the first frost of the year on the 30th, which was the forth-latest first frost on record.

Warm and dry was the catch phrase for November as well. There were four storms in November that brought small amounts of snow to the mountains and rain to the valleys. The last of these storms gave the Truckee Meadows its first snow on the 28th.

The warmer than normal trend continued into December, however, the dry trend came to a screeching halt. Reno had four times the normal precipitation for the month at 3.88 inches. This was the second wettest December on record. (The wettest was in 1955 with 5.25 inches.) Flooding along the Truckee River occurred on the 31st when 1.42 inches of rain fell that day alone.

Eastern Nevada

The Eastern part of the state started with a typical fall pattern of low pressure systems moving through bringing precipitation and cool temperatures. Toward the end of October it had become warm and dry with a few thunderstorms across the region. Precipitation amounts were well above normal for the northern portions of Elko County and the rest of the region was near normal but quite variable. Ely received 0.79 inches of rain giving it 79% of normal but Elko experienced 1.62 inches putting it at 228% of normal. The mean temperatures were slightly above normal.

The first half of November remained unsettled with convective storms happening across eastern Nevada. High pressure regained its position over the region until Thanksgiving. At that time a strong cold front produced thunderstorms and dropped snow to the valley floors. There was a more equal distribution of precipitation over the area this month. Precipitation was above normal except for Winnemucca, which was below normal. Like the rest of the state the temperatures were above normal for November.

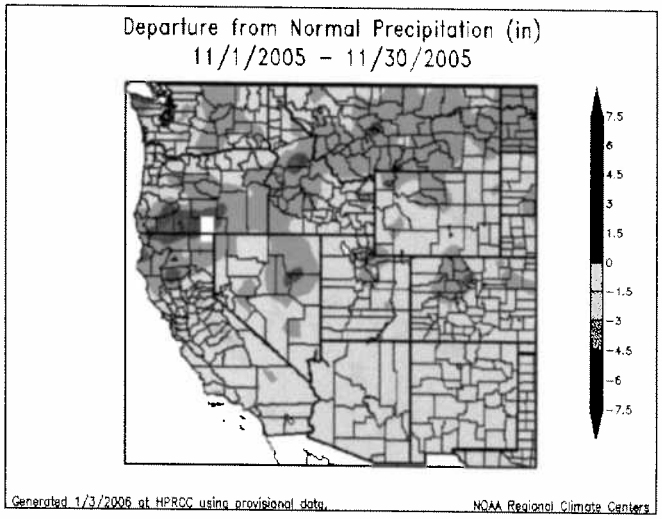
Mild temperatures were seen in December as well, bringing rain with the snow. Mid-month a prominent ridge of high pressure settled over the region making for warmer and drier conditions. Then two strong low pressure systems came over at the end of the month dumping vast amounts of precipitation on this part of the state as well as the western portion. Precipitation from these systems significantly swelled the rivers and streams causing some flood advisories and watches. Precipitation totals were well above normal for the month.

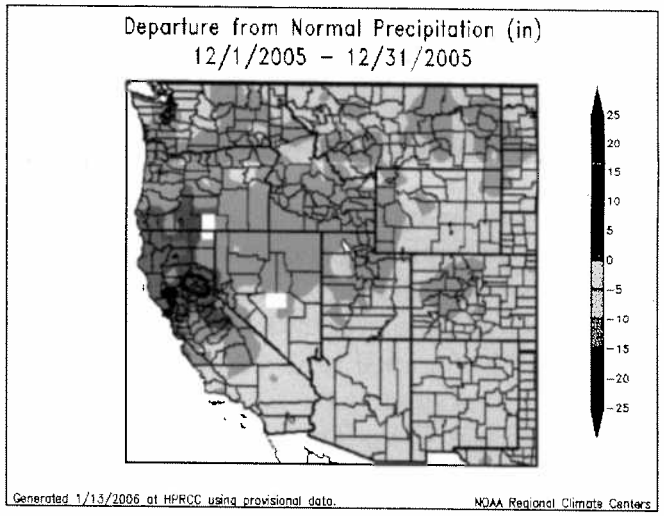
Southern Nevada

October is commonly the driest month for southern Nevada, but not this year. On the 18th and 19th an upper level low pressure system brought record breaking precipitation to the area. Las Vegas received 1.45 inches for the month when normally they get 0.24 inches. The entire region experienced precipitation levels well above normal for the month and slightly higher than normal temperatures.

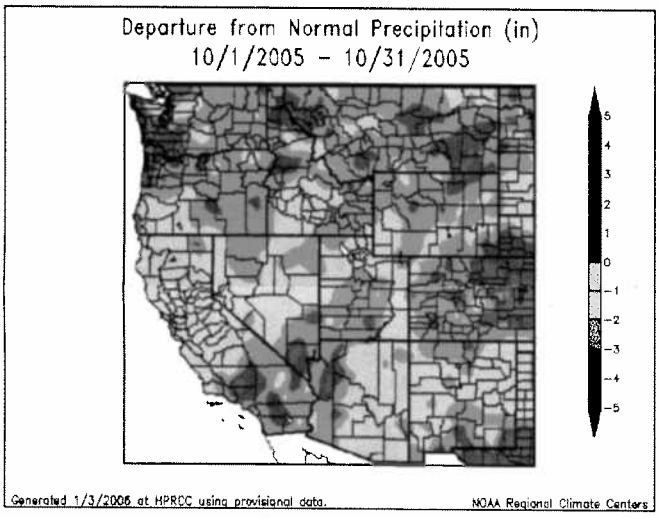
November was dry and warm much like the rest of Nevada. On the 10th and 11th a storm system moved east across the region with thundershowers and locally heavy rain.

High pressure dominated the southern part of the state for most of December. Record high temperatures were reported for Las Vegas during the Christmas weekend. On New Years Eve a warm moist air mass from the Pacific dropped heavy rain and snow in the southern Sierra Nevada. Bishop, CA had three times its normal precipitation for December.

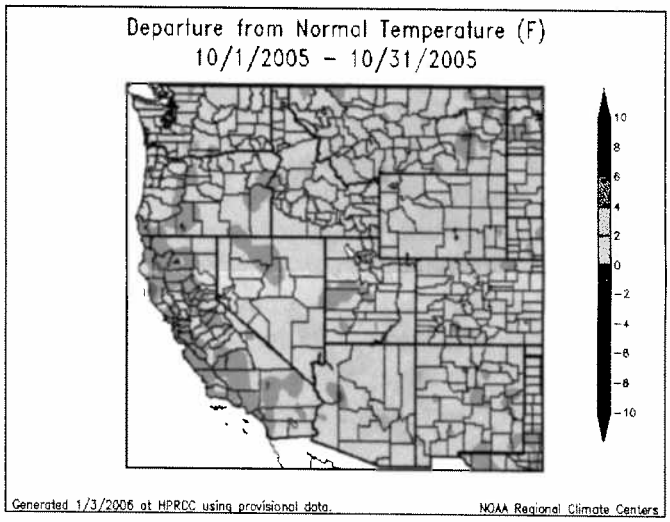


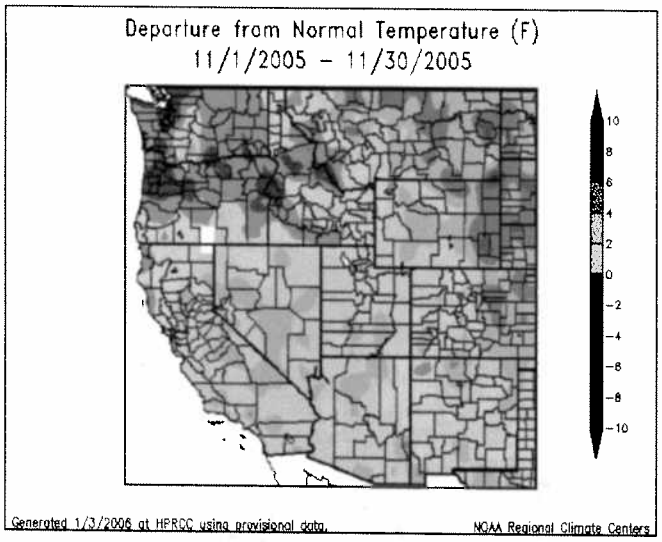


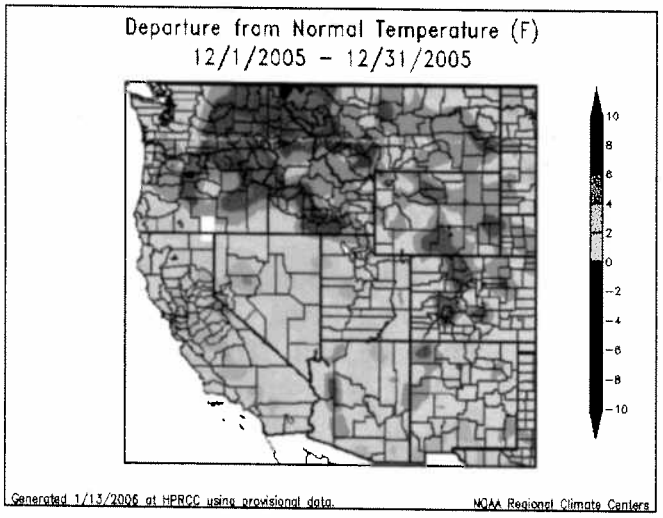
Departure from Normal Precipitation



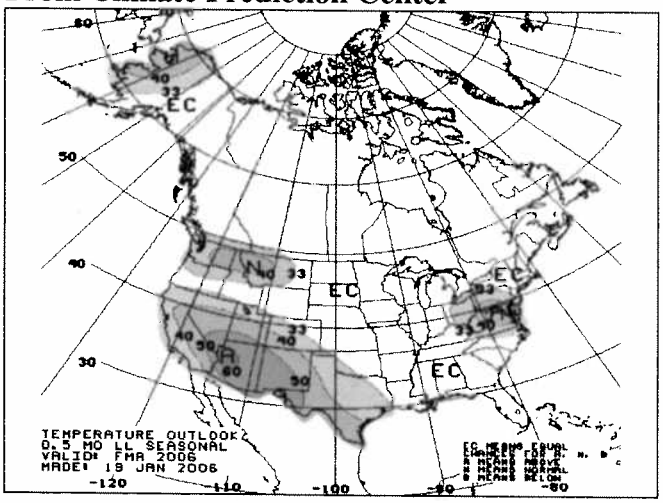
Departure from Normal Temperature

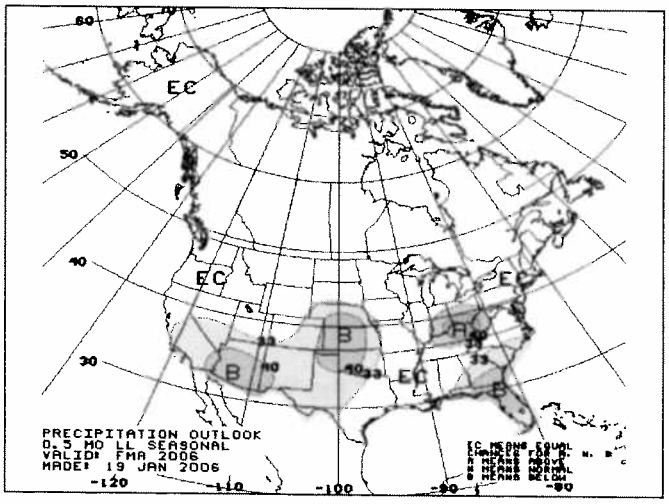






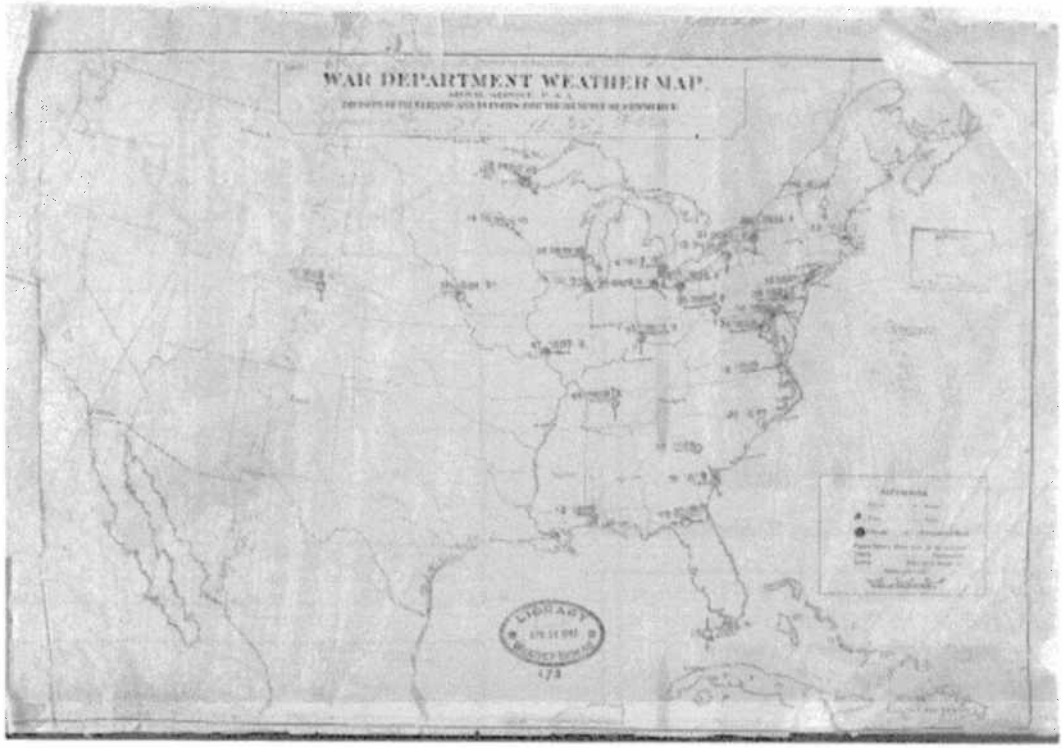
Official Seasonal Forecast
February-March-April 2006
From Climate Prediction Center





FEATURE ARTICLE: Historic Weather Maps Available on line.
By: Dr. Jeffrey Underwood

I trust that many readers of the Nevada Climate Summary are interested in weather from years past as well as today's happenings. With this in mind the State Climatologist would like to share one of his favorite archives with the readers. The archive in on the web and is a product of NOAA's Central Library Data Imaging Project. This archive was funded by the NOAA Climate Database Modernization Program, the same program that is funding the digitizing of our (Nevada's) weather observations made over the past 20+ years by dedicated volunteers. The archive title is simple "U.S. Daily Weather Maps," and if you are like me and have filed through stacks of the old "blue maps" (daily weather maps are printed in blue), this archive makes things a lot easier. Log in to http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/dwm/data_rescue_daily_weather_maps.html and download the software required for viewing. This is a simple mouse click and is quite fast. Then at your fingertips are each day's weather maps from yesterday to January 1, 1871 (yes 1871). Below is a copy of that first map from 1871. This archive is a great resource for weather historians and the curious alike.



War Department Weather Map 1871. *Courtesy of NOAA Central Library Data Imaging Project.*

One of the first things that one notices about the early maps is how few stations were reporting. Additionally as you move through time you see that there are strange and seeming endless changes in the weather map's home. The agency in charge of producing the maps has change quite regularly since 1871. Try to follow this genealogy of the 'blue map.'

From 1871 through 1892 the War Department was the lead agency for collecting weather data for the country. In 1893 the Agriculture Department took over the task. The Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau was created to produce the daily weather maps in 1911 and continued this task until 1940. The Weather Bureau was then made an arm of the Department of Commerce and weather maps were produced under the direction of the Department of Commerce Weather Bureau from 1941 through 1968. The following year (1969) the Environmental Science Services Administration began producing the daily weather maps as a sub-agency under the Department of Commerce. After only two years the Environmental Science Services branch was replaced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and this new entity became the lead agency for printing daily weather maps (1971-1983). To add further complication to this strange family tree—during this period NOAA formed a sub-sub agency, the Environmental Data and Information Service to publish the weather maps. A slight re-alignment in 1984 saw NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service take over the role of publishing the daily weather charts for the US, and in 1985 the National Weather Service under NOAA and the Department of Commerce became the outlet for daily weather maps. Of course the National Weather Service created a number of units to produce the maps over this period. The first unit charged with this mission under the National Weather Service was the National Meteorological Center, Climate Analysis Center (1985-1990), then came the National Meteorological Center, Meteorological Operations Division and Climate Analysis Center (1991-1996), and finally the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center and Climate Prediction Center (1997-present).

The complicated family tree of the daily weather map makes this archive even more impressive. One can imagine the difficulties encountered by the NOAA library in locating the hard copies of maps from publishing agencies long since forgotten. I hope that you enjoy these maps as much as I do.

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2005									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	80	13	20	30	67	32	49	0.22	0.00
Dayton	83	15	32	30	70	55	62	0.31	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)								m	m
Fallon NAS	86	1	26	5,31	70	37	54	0.06	0.00
Fernley	84	7	29	30	70	39	55	0.32	0.00
Flanigan	83	13	26	30	71	37	54	0.15	0.00
Flying M Ranch	90	1	20	10	72	36	54	0.00	0.00
Gardnerville	83	7	23	30	72	33	52	0.07	0.00
Hay Creek	84	1	28	4	66	37	51	0.35	0.00
Jacks Valley	76	14	34	31	66	43	54	0.27	0.00
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	88	1	30	31	73	40	57	0.09	0.00
Minden	83	13	27	5	71	36	54	0.30	0.00
Mogul	80	14	27	30	69	41	55	0.24	0.00
Reno, N. Virginia	77	14	32	30	68	42	55	0.06	0.00
Sheridan Acres	82	14	28	5	69	38	54	0.30	0.00
Spanish Springs	83	1	25	30	69	36	53	0.06	0.00
Sulphur	78	18	22	30	65	34	49	0.82	0.00
Vya-Shoestring	79	7	17	30	65	28	46	0.09	0.00
Washoe #10	77	14	29	30	65	40	53	0.02	0.00
Wellington	82	14	24	31	70	36	53	0.00	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	77	7	20	4	62	34	48	1.00	0.20
Reese River	83	14	10	5	67	25	46	0.57	0.00
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	74	16	22	5	64	35	49	0.12	0.00
Gabbs	85	1	30	6	70	39	54	0.28	0.00
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	88	1	25	31	74	37	55	0.21	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	82	1-Jan	17	11	67	32	50	2.17	0.00
Schurz (precip. only)								0.16	0.00
Tonopah	83	1	29	10	69	38	53	0.24	0.00
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	97	2	56	19	83	63	73	0.94	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	96	1	54	31	80	61	70	1.45	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								1.31	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	79	2	35	4	68	45	56	0.96	0.00
Lake Tahoe - USCG	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	73	6	17	5	63	27	45	1.00	0.00

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2005									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	71	1	11	19	55	25	40	0.46	1.40
Dayton	74	1	18	27	61	32	45	0.03	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)								m	m
Fallon NAS	80	1	16	23	59	28	43	0.03	0.00
Fernley	74	1	19	16	56	30	43	0.13	1.00
Flanigan	78	1	14	19	58	27	43	0.08	0.00
Flying M Ranch	72	1	12	27	58	29	43	0.00	0.00
Gardnerville	76	1	10	27	61	26	43	0.46	0.50
Hay Creek	69	2	22	16	56	31	44	0.05	0.00
Jacks Valley	71	1	20	20	57	34	45	0.44	0.00
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	76	1	13	27	61	33	47	0.26	0.00
Minden	75	1	13	27	60	29	44	0.26	0.00
Mogul	73	1	18	26	55	32	44	0.57	0.00
Reno, N. Virginia	72	1	19	27	57	32	45	0.23	0.00
Sheridan Acres	73	1	14	27	58	31	44	0.96	0.50
Spanish Springs	74	1	12	26	58	28	43	0.15	0.00
Sulphur	63	1	19	23	49	28	39	0.50	1.30
Vya-Shoestring	62	17	10	30	51	21	36	1.00	0.00
Washoe #10	72	1	17	27	58	33	46	0.28	0.00
Wellington	76	1	7	27	59	27	43	0.15	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	65	10	5	26	49	25	37	2.77	8.60
Reese River	73	1	-3	28	57	17	37	0.32	0.00
Ruby Valley	75	1	2	28	59	26	43	0.76	12.00
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	69	20	6	27	53	26	40	0.52	0.00
Gabbs	75	3	11	27	57	29	43	0.23	1.50
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	78	1	9	27	65	26	46	0.03	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	65	2	5	28	56	24	40	0.20	0.30
Schurz (precip. only)								0.18	0.00
Tonopah	71	1	13	28	59	29	44	0.00	0.00
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	82	4	37	28	74	52	63	0.00	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	81	2	35	28	69	49	59	0.00	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.00	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	70	2	23	27	54	36	45	2.80	1.30
Lake Tahoe - USCG	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	68	1	4	27	54	21	37	1.74	0.00

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OFDECEMBER 2005									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	60	20	12	6	44	28	36	7.31	6.00
Dayton	66	24	17	6	47	29	38	4.92	0.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fernley	61	22	12	17	45	29	37	1.44	3.50
Flanigan	60	25	5	17	46	28	36	3.20	5.50
Flying M Ranch	68	24	14	7	49	24	34	1.64	0.00
Gardnerville	66	21	13	6	48	26	38	7.26	6.50
Hay Creek	57	21	12	16	41	25	33	2.76	2.80
Jacks Valley	60	1	19	5	47	32	39	11.14	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	66	20	14	16	49	29	39	3.85	0.00
Minden	65	23	14	4	47	29	38	4.83	4.50
Mogul*								12.64	0.00
Reno, N. Virginia	59	21	18	4	46	30	38	4.83	6.00
Sheridan Acres	65	21	16	4	46	30	38	14.94	9.70
Spanish Springs	61	21	12	16	46	29	38	5.61	0.00
Sulphur	53	24	7	14	41	27	34	3.23	7.00
Vya-Shoestring	50	23	0	15	41	20	31	4.63	
Washoe #10	62	21	16	4	46	31	39	8.22	8.00
Wellington	64	21	11	17	47	28	37	3.83	3.60
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	57	24	3	7	39	22	30	4.49	14.10
Reese River	59	23	-1	17	45	19	32	0.67	0.00
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	52	23	2	4	41	20	30	0.91	0.00
Gabbs	65	22	8	16	48	28	38	0.45	2.50
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	65	23	2	16	50	20	35	0.00	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	63	25	4	16	46	15	31	0.33	2.60
Schurz (precip. only)								1.16	0.00
Tonopah	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	70	2,23,24	30	16	59	41	50	0.02	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.00	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	56	22	20	16	43	32	37	16.59	10.30
Lake Tahoe - USCG	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	57	21	4	4	43	20	31	13.81	

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
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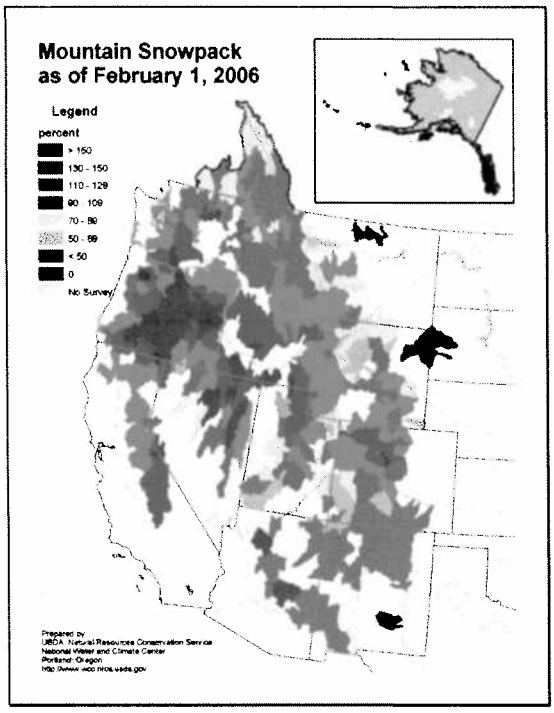

This map comes from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is based on data recorded from snow course marker sites.

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